



**US Army Corps
of Engineers** ®
Norfolk District

News Release

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
Norfolk District
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Corps commodities team deploys as Ike aims at Gulf

NORFOLK, Va. – Employees of the Norfolk District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began deploying to Meridian, Miss., Sept. 8, and more left today as Hurricane Ike takes aim at the Gulf Coast.

The employees are volunteer members of the Norfolk District Commodities' Team, a specialized team that helps FEMA and state officials coordinate the purchase, transportation and distribution of water and ice during times of federal emergencies.

The majority of the 10-person team deployed to Naval Air Station Meridian and at least one team member will assist the Mississippi Emergency Management Office. The team will conduct disaster-planning operations with other state and federal responders in anticipation of a Mississippi landfall. The team can further deploy to another state if Hurricane Ike bypasses Mississippi.

The district's commodities team has also deployed this year in response to Hurricane Dolly, which struck the extreme southern portions of Texas.

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MEDIA ADVISORY: The Norfolk District Emergency Management Chief, Stan Ballard, is available to discuss the district's emergency response mission and the mission of the Norfolk District Commodities Team. Additionally, telephone interviews with deployed members of the commodities team may be available as the situation allows. Media representatives interested in these availabilities should contact the Norfolk District public affairs officer at (757) 201-7673.